

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1572

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

16TH AF TORREJON SP

JUSMG/MAAG MADRID

CINUSNAVEUR

UNCLAS MADRID 2574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: EDIOTRIAL COMMENT

1. APRIL 15 EDITION OF MADRID DAILY YA (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC) PUBLISHED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE BASES AND APPRAISING THEIR VALUE", FIRST SUCH PRESS COMMENT OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE SINCE FIFTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MADRID.

2. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND EASTERN MED IN COMBINATION WITH CONTINUED FRENCH POLICY OF REMAINING OUTSIDE NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE LEADS TO SPECULATION AS TO VALUE OF BASES IN SPAIN.

WHILE VALUE DEPENDED UPON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD APPEAR SPAIN'S ROLE AND VALUE OF BASES HAD BEEN ENHANCED, PUTTING SPAIN IN POSITION TO SEEK PROPORTIONATELY LARGER COMPENSATION AS RESULT. HOWEVER, IT WAS PRECISELY ON THIS POINT THAT WASHINGTON AND MADRID DISAGREED. MADRID VIEWS ITS STABLE
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INTERNAL SITUATION AS FAVORABLE STARTING POINT FOR EXTERNAL

POLICY OF COOPERATION ADVANTAGEOUS TO WESTERN DEFENSE. WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, SEES DETERIORATING SIUTATION IN MED, PARTICULARLY PORTUGAL, AS OUTSIDE THREAT WHICH PLACES SPAIN AT DISADVANTAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL ASPECT WAS RAISED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ONLY FEW DAYS AGO, I.E., ALLIES OF US MUST NOW ASSURE THEMSELVES BEFORE SIGNING ANY AGREEMENT, THAT NOT ONLY US GOVERNMENT, BUT CONGRESS MUST BE DISPOSED TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS ADOPTED. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, THEN, AS POINTED OUT BY SCHLESINGER, ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION, CONGRESS HAS LAST WORD ON COMMITMENTS.

4. EDITORIAL ENDS ON NOTE THAT SCHLESINGER WARNING MUST NOT GO FOR NAUGHT, THAT MATURITY OF A PEOPLE ALSO IS MANIFEST IN ITS ABILITY TO CHOOSE ITS ALLIES, AND THAT SPAIN IS NOW IN INCREASINGLY ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION TO CHOOSE AMONG VARIETY OF OPTIONS, WITHOUT NEED TO GO FOR "DEADEND" OPTION.

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL FAILS TO GIVE LEAST DISCUSSION TO WHAT SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE ALLIES OR OPTIONS NOW OPEN TO SPAIN IN PRESENT CONTEXT.
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NNN

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